

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for use in an information processing system for generating a recommendation based on search criteria at a processing device, the method comprising:

pre-defining one or more user-selectable limiting factors in a recommender system that limit optimal processing characteristics of a recommendation-generating process implemented in the recommender system and that are independent of the search criteria;

receiving a user selection of the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors to be used in the recommender system;

receiving an input in the recommender system ~~that is dependent on the search criteria from one or more sources~~;

processing the input in the recommender system, based on the search criteria, by the recommendation-generating process in accordance with the selected one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors; and

generating an output and outputting recommendation at the processing device in accordance with the search criteria, based at least in part on the processed input, the output recommendation being generated in accordance with an optimal processing as limited by the pre-defined one or more user-selectable limiting factors.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further including generating a ripeness indicator associated with the output recommendation, the ripeness indicator being indicative of the one or more user-selectable limiting factors.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the ripeness indicator comprises a visual indicator having at least a first state corresponding to a first color and a second state corresponding to a second color.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the ripeness indicator comprises an audible indicator.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factors is selectable via a user interface of the processing device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of time that may be spent by the recommender system in generating the output recommendation.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of power consumption utilized in conjunction with generating the output recommendation.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factors comprises a specified limit on a quality measure associated with the output recommendation.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factors is selectable by the user as one of a plurality of points along a scale from a low level of the limiting factor to a high level of the limiting factor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device is configured for presentation of the output recommendation in a visually-perceptible manner on a display of the device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device is configured for presentation of the output recommendation in an audibly-perceptible manner using a speaker associated with the device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device comprises at least one of a desktop or portable personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a set top box.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further including generating a ripeness indicator associated with the one or more user-selectable limiting factors.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in generating a recommendation based on search criteria in a processing device of an information processing system, the apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a profile associated with the device; and

a processor coupled to the memory, the processor being operative to process an input from one or more sources that is dependent on the search criteria and one or more limiting factors in an implementation of a recommender system that are independent of the search criteria, the one or more limiting factors being pre-defined and selectable by a user of the device prior to the processor processing the input based on the search criteria, the one or more limiting factors defining one or more processing characteristics relative to an optimal processing characteristic of a recommendation-generating process implemented in the recommender system, and to generate and output the recommendation in accordance with the search criteria, based at least in part on the input and the stored profile associated with the device, the processing characteristic of the recommendation-generating process being configured by the recommender system in accordance with the one or more limiting factors that limit the operation of the recommendation-generating process relative to the optimal processing characteristic.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor generates a ripeness indicator associated with the one or more limiting factors.

17. (Currently amended) A method for use in an information processing system for generating a recommendation based on search criteria at a processing device, the method comprising:

pre-defining one or more user-selectable limiting factors in a recommender system that limit optimal processing characteristics of a recommendation-generating process implemented in the recommender system and that are independent of the search criteria;

receiving an input in a recommender system, independent of the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors, from a source separate from the processing device, the recommender system operating on a recommendation-generating process;

processing the input in the recommender system in accordance with the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable factors;

generating an output and outputting recommendation at the processing device based on the processed input, in accordance with the selected one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors; and

generating a ripeness indicator associated with the operation of the recommendation-generating process as limited by the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of time that may be spent by the recommender system in generating the output recommendation.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of power consumption utilized in conjunction with generating the output recommendation.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on a quality measure associated with the output recommendation.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user-selectable limiting factors are predefined independent of receiving the input in the recommender system and further relate to resources used by the processing device to process the input in the recommender system.